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DE RUEHSO #0571 2711434
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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9644
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0778
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 9264

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000571

SIPDIS

STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

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TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [XM](#) [XR](#) [XF](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - Criticism of Brazil's Role in Honduras

"Who makes the decisions now is Uncle Chavez"

Editorial in Brazil's major magazine, with a weekly circulation of 1.23 million, stated that by transforming the Brazilian embassy into ousted President Manuel Zelaya's headquarters Brazil has only served Hugo Chavez' greed in the region. Veja compares the situation to 1965, when Brazil helped the U.S. military in the Dominican Republic; now Brazil is "siding" with Uncle Chavez not with Uncle Sam like it did before. It also questions what led the Brazilian government to act in a supporting role of Chavista expansionism in Latin America and says that the actions in Honduras are not in the interest of the Brazilian people. "Supporting Zelaya does not mean defending democracy. It means supporting Chavez' dictatorship." It also says that working with Chavez to arrange Zelaya's return to Honduras only served the electoral interests of President Lula's party (PT).
WHITE